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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

Complete coverage of the Cass City community and surrounding areas since 1899

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 50 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013 75 CENTS ~ 16 PAGES, 1 SUPPLEMENT



**MILD TEMPERATURES and plenty of snow drew several hearty souls — young and young at heart — to Cass City’s sledding hill for some wintry recreation Saturday. Among the youngsters enjoying the hill were (below) Kalee, 9 (far left) and Kacee Gray, 7 (far right), of Cass City, and their cousins from Lake Orion, Emma Gray, 12, and Spencer Gray, 6.**



## Milk processing plans dominate council meet

by **Clarke Haire**  
Publisher

Engineering services for a previously proposed milk processing facility in Cass City’s Industrial Park dominated Monday’s brief regular meeting of the village council.

During the 30-minute gathering, officials approved 2 motions addressing issues at the Cass City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for the multi-million dollar project, which first came to light in 2009. The number one concern at hand is the capacity increase at the WWTP created by Phase I and Phase II of the Dairy Farmers of America

proposal.

Trustee Mick Kirn reported the first of 2 studies projects an estimated cost not to exceed \$6,480. The study will prepare a Maximum Allowable Headworks Loading Analysis (MAHL) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The purpose of the analysis is to confirm site specific treatment plant criteria pertaining to pollutant pass-through, process inhibition/interference and sludge quality used to establish local limits for industrial dischargers to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The results of the MAHL will be the basis for setting discharge limits for

Please turn to page 8.

## Huron County officers uncover area meth lab

by **Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

A drug trafficking sting led Huron County authorities to a residential methamphetamine (“meth”) lab inside a Bad Axe residence Thursday.

Huron County Sheriff’s deputies and Bad Axe police officers made the discovery while serving a search warrant at the home, located at 215 Butler St., following a drug purchase at the residence.

After entering the home, officers discovered the makeshift lab inside a

bedroom, according to reports, which state police evacuated the home and set up a perimeter in the area, and requested assistance from the Bad Axe Fire Department due to concerns over the dangerous and highly explosive nature of the chemicals that are combined while manufacturing meth.

Fire fighters, wearing self-contained breathing apparatuses, ventilated the home, and police contacted the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bay Area Narcotic Enforcement Team, which dispatched its haz-

Please turn to page 7.

## Fatal snowmobile crash claims life of Cass City man

by **Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

Funeral services are scheduled for today (Wednesday) for a Cass City man who lost his life while snowmobiling with a group of friends over the weekend in northern Michigan.

Witnesses said Chris Peters, 49, was fatally injured when the snowmobile he was operating in Roscommon County’s Denton Township, about 5 miles south of Houghton Lake, collided with a tree Friday night. Houghton Lake is located roughly 73 miles northwest of Saginaw.

The accident occurred at about 8 p.m. while Peters and a group of other snowmobilers from the Cass City area were making their way back to the Peters’ family cabin following a trip to the southern end of Houghton Lake — roughly a 20-mile route.

“We were headed for Chris’ cabin, which is on Elbow Lake,” explained Jeremy Somerville, who added he and his brother, John, along with Peters, Kevin Vaughn and another friend were traveling together Friday night.

“It was icy out. The trails were icy,” Somerville recalled of the conditions. He said members of the group were traveling in single file as they usually did. “We stop periodically and make sure we have everybody, and we were missing a sled,” he continued, adding they back-tracked and discovered Peters had missed a curve, left the trail and struck a tree.

Sgt. Richard Jones of the Denton Township Police Department was dispatched to the scene and arrived to find members of Peters’ group — who are volunteer fire fighters — performing CPR on Peters. Jones assisted until EMS personnel arrived at the scene.

Please turn to page 8.



**Chris Peters**

## School board okays exam opt-out policy

by **Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

The Cass City Board of Education tackled a mixed bag of business items Monday night, including adoption of a resolution reinstating a policy that allows some high school students to opt out of final exams.

The board also discussed Cass City’s latest enrollment figures and standardized test scores, amended the district’s 2012-13 general fund budget, and extended school Supt. Jeff Hartel’s contract by one year during its regular monthly meeting.

The proposal to again allow Cass City students in grades 9 through 12

to skip final exams was first presented to the board last month.

The district eliminated exemptions allowing the practice 6 or 7 years ago, in part because it was a nightmare to maintain consistency due to all of the possible accepted absences, according to junior-senior high school Principal Chad Daniels. School officials also hoped requiring all students to take final exams would be an “attendance motivator”. However, removal of incentives to skip exams increased absenteeism, he said.

The new policy limits student absences in any one class to 5, not

Please turn to page 8.

## Recovering

### Benefit dinner scheduled April 14 for local mail carrier injured in accident

by **Tom Montgomery**  
Editor

Family members and friends are organizing a benefit dinner for Rachel Maurer, a lifelong Thumb resident and local mail carrier who was critically injured in a traffic accident just west of Cass City in early December.

The fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Cass City Junior-Senior High School. The event will feature a spaghetti dinner and bake sale along with a shotgun raffle, crossbow raffle, 50-50 raffle and a silent auction.

Anyone interested in making a donation towards the dinner or for the silent auction is asked to contact Roxanne Stine at (989) 658-8968, Shari Bock at (989) 872-5729 or Melissa Matthewson at (989) 670-9043.

“She’s making progress, but she has a long ways to go,” Stine said of Maurer’s recovery. She’s currently receiving care at the Lighthouse Neurological Rehabilitation Center, Caro, where she was transferred following a 6-week stay at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Saginaw.

Maurer, who resides with her family in the Cumber-Ubly area,

was initially transported to St. Mary’s following the Dec. 3 accident, which involved 3-vehicles at the corner of M-81 and Cedar Run Road. Maurer’s car was struck head-on and she suffered multiple injuries in the collision.

Stine described Maurer — her cousin — as one of the friendliest people she knows, both on the job and when around family and friends.

“She has been a mail carrier for the Cass City Post Office for 17 years. Whether she was behind the counter or on her rural route, she was always friendly and either spoke or gave a nice wave. Her smile — she’s always got this soft smile,” Stine said. “It’s just heart-breaking to see this happen to anybody.”

Maurer and her husband, Dale, who also works in Cass City at Cole Carbide, have 3 children; Rob, 30, Rene, 26, and Tiffany, 18. They also have 2 grandchildren, Mason and Trenton. The Maurer’s have hosted 4 foreign exchange students, including their current guest, Clara Gasparri, a student from Italy.

“She is a very active member of St. Ignatius Church, enjoys watching her daughters in dance, selling Mary Kay products, and riding motorcycles with Dale,” Stine noted, adding she and a handful of other cousins joined efforts to organize the fundraiser and hope the upcoming event will provide the family with a helping hand as Maurer continues on the road to recovery.

“We’re just trying to help the family out,” she said. “Just trying to make it a little bit easier for the family.”



**Rachel Maurer**



TEN MEMBERS OF the Cass City High School Class of 1971 recently gathered from across the country for a Caribbean cruise to Cozumel and the Grand Cayman Islands. Pictured above are (back row, from left) Ruth Rayl Shaw of Colorado, Sharon Hartel Reid of Indiana, Jan Glaspie Finkbeiner of Michigan, Anne Bulen Jacobs of Virginia, Carolyn Field Gohsman Klein of Michigan, Sherry Bacon Pellicore of Colorado, (front row, left) Patty Doerr Coleman of Florida, Cathi Field of Florida, Kay Dillon Guinther of Michigan, Jane Weippert Laine of New York, and Mary Jane VanVliet of Michigan.

## Owen-Gage recognizes "students of the month"

The focus for the Owen-Gage School District's "students of the month" for February is being respectful of others.

A student who's respectful of others cares about others and their



Boyd Evans

property, demonstrates courtesy, cooperates with others, and accepts differences in others. The student also listens to others, interacts appropriately and shares with others.



Schyler Newton

lowing students were recognized: Boyd Evans, fourth grade (elementary level), son of Maurice and Tanya Evans; Schyler Newton, sixth grade (junior high level), son of Craig and Melody



Devon Lorenz

Newton; Devon Lorenz, ninth grade (high school level), son of Rena Lorenz; and Jeremy Jamieson, 12th grade (senior student), son of Dave and Mary Jamieson.



Jeremy Jamieson

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		5		7	3			
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
				3			4	2
6			5	4				7
		1						8
		8	2			6		

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9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	1
6	1	7	4	9	3	5	8	2
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9
8	5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7
2	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	8
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9	5
5	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4

## Baker enrollment for spring classes slated

Baker College of Cass City, a satellite campus of Baker College of Flint, is enrolling students for spring 2013 quarter, with classes beginning Monday, April 1. Registration continues through the first week of classes.

Some of the career programs offered at Baker College of Cass City this spring include human service, business management, business administration, medical receptionist,

medical insurance specialist, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, early childhood education, computer information systems and computer technology options.

Many financial assistance opportunities are available. For more information, call Baker College of Cass City at (989) 872-6000. Students may also schedule an appointment via the Baker College website: www.baker.edu.

## Foundation offering free trees during March

The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easier for everyone to celebrate the arrival of spring through planting trees.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2013 and receive 10 free white flowering dogwood trees.

"White flowering dogwoods will add beauty to your home throughout the year," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Dogwoods are known for their showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage and red berries that attract songbirds during winter."

The free trees are part of the non-profit foundation's "Trees for America" campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time

for planting between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation's bimonthly publication, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Dogwood Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410, by March 30. Or join online at arbor-day.org/march.

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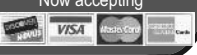
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# In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Tom Montgomery  
Editor

## Unions won't stop right-to-work law

Guest editorial  
by F. Vincent Vernuccio  
director of labor policy  
Mackinac Center for Public Policy

In December, Michigan joined the ranks of 23 other states that put workers and job creators above special interests. Soon unions will not be able to get workers fired for refusing to financially support them.

The near future will be confusing. Some workers will be able to exercise their rights as soon as the end of March when the new right-to-work law takes effect, while others will have to wait for their current union contracts to expire, which could take years. There is no doubt the special interests that rely on forced union dues will try to thwart worker freedom in this state.

Michigan Education Association President Steven Cook, in a Jan. 22 email, told his members that his union's "goal is to settle, extend or modify contracts with school districts so that locals are," as he euphemizes, "protected from the law's negative impacts."

If Cook is successful, teachers and other school employees with contracts that are extended before right-to-work goes into effect will need to wait until those contracts expire, or are again modified before exercising their right-to-work freedoms.

No matter how many delay tactics unions use to postpone right-to-work in Michigan, the wait will be worth it.

Workers in right-to-work states enjoy higher wage growth and, when cost of living is factored into the equation, better compensation than their counterparts in forced unionism states.

This may be another reason why unemployment is lower in right-to-work states and why these states generally have higher population growth. Job creators see states with right-to-work laws as being better for business.

Just one example of job creators already giving Michigan a second look due to its new right-to-work status was reflected in a recent article in Site Selection, which calls itself a "magazine of corporate real estate strategy & area economic development."

The article highlighted Brent Pollina of Pollina Corporate Real Estate in Chicago, who said right-to-work will have an effect "when there are companies who are looking for locations, Michigan will no longer be eliminated because they are not a right-to-work state."

He predicted the state will see "a significant increase in the number of projects that Michigan receives because they are no longer being eliminated at the early stages of searches."

Passing right-to-work legislation in Michigan was a major victory for workers' rights and economic prosperity, but the fight is by no means over.

Besides extending the contracts of workers to prolong their wait for right-to-work Cook also recently issued a memo detailing several strategies to combat the newly passed law.

Cook's memo stated that his union "will use any legal means at our disposal to collect the dues owed under signed membership forms from any members who withhold dues prior to terminating their membership in August for the following fiscal year."

Besides planning to sue their own members, the memo contemplates lawsuits that will directly challenge the bill, political payback against right-to-work supporters, and an initiative that could put right-to-work on the ballot in November 2014.

Unions will have an uphill battle to defeat the law. Last November Michigan voters overwhelmingly rejected two union-sponsored ballot proposals. Voters rejected Proposal 2 by 15 points; the bill would have given government union contracts an effective veto over legislation and made right-to-work legislatively impossible. Voters also denied the Service Employees International Union the ability to force dues from home-based caregivers with the defeat of Proposal 4.

Recent polling indicates that Michigan voters approve of right-to-work 51 to 41 percent, making union efforts potentially more perilous.

There is no surprise that unions will fight to bring back their forced dues monopoly. The fact that one of the biggest and most powerful unions in the state bluntly states that they will use "any legal means at [their] disposal" to keep collecting dues from workers who do not see the value of MEA membership vindicates Michigan lawmakers who gave union members choice and put them ahead of special interests.

The road ahead for worker freedom will not be without difficulty, but after the dust settles and right-to-work has been solidified by the voters and the courts, Michigan will truly be a more free and prosperous state.



## Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

Miracle in a bottle



Attention all consumers who are troubled by the hazards of everyday life: If you sneeze on occasion, stumble on the stairs, experience halitosis, gastrointestinal upset, acne, headaches or hangnails, if you misplace your car keys, shiver when chilly, sweat when overheated or find yourself tired at the end of the day, we have good news for you.

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Call now. Dial 1-800-Good-Drug, or text "Get me the good drug" from any smartphone. Operators are standing by.

But wait. Call within the next 18 minutes and we'll double the offer. You'll receive not one, but two bottles of the medi-miri pill. That's twice the happiness, twice

the joy and twice the symptoms for one simple price. You've got nothing to lose (except flatulence, flabby thighs, forgetfulness, irritating feminine issues, frustrating male symptoms and other familiar afflictions too embarrassing to mention).

We work closely with doctors and health insurance companies to ensure you get well and we get paid, not necessarily in that order. Leave the billing to us.

As with any medication, it is important to follow dosage instructions exactly as directed. Swallow whole. Do not chew or mouth sores may occur. Take with at least eight ounces of water to decrease likelihood of stomach upset. Do not take within three hours of ingesting any food, especially peanut butter, oysters and gummy worms, as life-threatening allergies have been known to develop.

Common side effects include weight gain, insomnia, impotence, dry mouth, diarrhea, toe jam, headaches, fatigue and any other symptoms you aren't currently experiencing. The medi-miri pill only addresses current symptoms. Ailments created by the medi-miri pill require further medical evaluation and a second medication to alleviate the side effects of the first (currently in production, available next month, tentatively called the medi-miri 2).

If you experience blurred vision, and are unable to read the fine print on the medi-miri pill bottle, make an appointment to see your optometrist. It might be time to purchase a new set of bifocals.

Serious side effects are rare but can include flatulence, paranoia, amnesia, difficulty breathing and paralysis of the extremities. On radically rare occasions cessation of heartbeat has occurred.

If you or someone you know who is taking the medi-miri pill ceases to breathe or experiences cardiac arrest, terminate use and seek medical attention immediately. Failure to do so may result in death.

But, at least you can rest assured it will be a symptom-free affair.

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## Letters to the Editor

### How did Obama earn this rating?

Dear Editor,

How does President Obama have a 60 percent approval rating?

His first term he gave us Obama-care, which is a total disaster. Now his second term, he is running around the country talking about gun control and legalizing 12 million illegals. Instead he should be trying to create jobs for the 26 million legal Americans that are unemployed. To the people that voted for him, is this what you call job creation? With President Obama wanting to legalize 12 million illegals and polls show that 47 percent of them are on government assistance.

He's quite a job creator. He's putting all the unemployed on the backs of the taxpayer payroll.

There is no way that 26 million unemployed can hold this country hostage from being prosperous.

The true number of unemployed is 52 million,

not 26 million. So let's say we put them to work and each one pays \$5,000 per year taxes, that will bring in only \$260 billion, and interest on our debt is \$1.2 billion a day.

Plus he wants to spend \$9 trillion in the next 4 years.

And if anyone out there thinks that that is alright they have no knowledge of financial matters. There's no way President Obama can tax us enough to get us out of this mess, and if he tries we will all end up being broke. We have to cut spending. What is scary is to think that we use to have 100 different countries buying our debt up and now we only have 15.

Nebraska, working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, approved the Keystone Pipeline to be installed 2 months ago. This will create thousands of jobs, but let's see how long it will take President Obama to Please turn to page 4.

## Not pleased with pharmacy service


Dear editor,

Had a doctor's appointment in Caro, and from there I went to Rite Aid in Caro to hand in my prescriptions. Handed my prescriptions to the clerk and said, "I had 10 prescriptions to be filled, but fill what you can today and I will be back Saturday to pick up the rest that you did not fill today." She asked me my birthday and she wrote it on the scripts and I told her I have a doctor's appointment and I will be back to pick up the scripts that she has ready for me, she said, "o.k."

I returned to Rite Aid after my doctor's appoint-

ment about 90 minutes later, walked to the check-out and asked the clerk, who was a different clerk than I first spoke with, if she had any prescriptions ready for Dawn Miller. She looked for my prescriptions and came back to tell me that there were no scripts ready, and she asked me if I handed in any today. I replied, "Yes, I handed in around 10 scripts to another clerk who works on the computer." This clerk went to verify if I had handed in any scripts today. The other clerk told her that I did hand in the scripts but that I told her I was coming Please turn to page 4.

Follow *Slices of Life* on Facebook and hit Like (please). Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, playwright and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" Email her at [permtm@qwest.net](mailto:permtm@qwest.net); or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.



### Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

(And anyone else he can get to help)

There is a prayer vigil in the works for Sunday, March 10, at the Cass City Lions Pavilion.

Organizer Shelley de Beaubien says a time of prayer is needed to help heal the suffering and sadness we all feel over the recent passing of many of our loved ones. Loved ones, adds de Beaubien, who have left us too young, suddenly or unexpectedly.

For more information on the 2 p.m. event, call Shelley at 872-5606.

Kudos to the Cass City school play cast. They gathered to sing the National Anthem Thursday before the Lady Red Hawks' Parents' Night contest against Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port.

Did a nice job, too - loud and proud. That speaks volumes for their upcoming production "Peter Panic" which airs March 15-17.

You can join Congresswoman Candice Miller on Thursday, March 7 at 10 a.m. in the Cass City VFW Hall. Also slated to appear at the workshop geared towards USDA Rural Development loans and grants will be representatives from Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties, as well as your local government officials.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Thumb MI Chapter, has a fundraising 17th Annual Banquet & Auction planned Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 7556 S. Lakeshore Road, Lexington.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for the annual event, followed by dinner at 7 p.m., and a silent and regular auction and raffles.

Call Tim at 810-359-7000, ext. 121 for ticket information or buy on line at <http://events.rmef.org/!AFD>

### CASS CITY CHRONICLE

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Columnist

#### Rates & Policies

The Cass City Chronicle reserves the right to edit any and all copy for content and size restrictions. Final editorial judgement lies with the Chronicle management and staff. Deadline for classified advertising is Monday, noon and deadline for display advertising is Friday, 5 p.m. for the next week's edition.

#### Letters to the Editor

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper. Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.

#### Social News

The Cass City Chronicle will gladly publish social news, free of charge. Social news includes: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations, birth announcements and similar items. There is a \$4 fee to include a photo.

#### Subscription Rates

Tuscola, Huron & Sanilac counties - \$23.10 per year.  
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Transit (nonbusiness) rates, 10 words or less, \$4.00 each insertion; additional words 10 cents each. Three weeks for the price of 2-cash rate. Save money by enclosing cash with mail orders. Rates for display want ads on application.

#### Obituary Rates

Obituary notices cost \$19 per insertion. There is a \$4 additional charge for including a photo.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication.

## Wednesday, February 27

Spoonfuls of Plenty FREE Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.

## Thursday, February 28

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Thumb TEA Party meeting, 1 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library, Cass City. Movie: "Obama's America 2016".

Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary "Used Book Sale", 6:30-4 p.m., West Wing of the hospital.

Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

## Friday, March 1

Al-Anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 912-0546.

Hills & Dales General Hospital Auxiliary "Used Book Sale", 6:30-4 p.m., West Wing of the hospital.

## Saturday, March 2

Closed AA meeting, 10-11 a.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Ugly Rd., Argyle. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church). For more information, contact Mandy at (989) 975-0544.

## Sunday, March 3

Gagetown United Methodist Brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All you can eat. \$6 donation.

## Monday, March 4

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Ugly. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 5

Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

Free Cooking & Nutrition Classes, 4-6 p.m., Cass City United Methodist Church. Taught by Shari Bock, chef, and Donna Barnes, MSUE Nutrition Instructor. Space is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. Eligibility requirements. For more information, contact Barnes at (989) 672-3825.

## Circuit court news

# Several charged with felonies

The following people appeared in Tuscola County Circuit Court last week on various criminal charges:

•Brett G. Lackie, 31, Caro, pleaded guilty to a charge of violating the Sex Offenders Registration Act by failing to notify local law enforcement of a change in address between September and October in Almer Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Matthew J. Gola, 19, Ugly, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny between June 29 and July 4 in Gagetown.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$10,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Matthew S. Brown, 42, Decker, pleaded guilty to one count of writing a no account check totaling \$60 and drawn on Northstar Bank June 17 in Indianfields Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Christena M. Martinez, 36, Millington, entered pleas of guilty to charges of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer and assault or assault and battery Nov. 30 in Arbel Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Chad M. Raymond, 31, Deford, was sentenced to 90 days in the county jail and 24 months probation following his plea of guilty to one count of possession of a controlled substance, subsequent offense, Aug. 24 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$1,198.

•Steven A. Pudelko, 31, Caro, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 24 months probation following his pleas of no contest to charges of fleeing a police officer and operating a motor vehicle with the presence of a controlled substance in his body Oct. 15 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$648.

•Zachary J. Weeks, 21, Unionville, was sentenced to 365 days in jail and 60 months probation following his pleas of no contest to fleeing and eluding a police officer, 2 counts of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer, and one count of domestic violence Sept. 7 in Wisner Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (one prior felony conviction).

In addition to jail time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,784.

•Jason T. Lynk, 35, Caro, was sentenced to 273 days in jail, with work release, following his pleas of no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor - causing serious injury, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor July 29 in Fairgrove Township.

He was also placed on 60 months probation and ordered to complete 360 hours of community service and pay costs and fines totaling \$4,266 plus restitution of \$120.

•Kelli C. Gomez, 35, Caro, was sentenced to 270 days in jail and 48 months probation for her pleas of guilty to obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and possession of a controlled substance last June in Wells Township.

She was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$1,928.

•Aaron R. Callahan, 43, Caro, pleaded no contest to a charge of aggravated stalking Feb. 8-15 in Reese.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was

continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Ryan R. Whitman, 24, Kingston, was sentenced to one to 15 years in prison following his plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance Sept. 12 in Koylton Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$398.

•Steven S. Mihalic, 21, Highland, was sentenced to 330 days in jail and 60 months probation following his plea of guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and his plea of no contest to one count of aggravated stalking Sept. 14 in Caro.

He was also ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$766.

•John A. Lopez, 24, Montrose, pleaded guilty to one count of writing a no account check involving a \$41.59 check drawn on Citizens Bank April 17, 2011, in Arbel Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$5,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

# Letters to the Editor (cont.)

## How did Obama earn this rating?

Continued from page 3.

okay it, if he ever does. He should be more worried about creating these new jobs instead of working hard trying to legalize 12 million illegals. President Reagan legalized millions and now President Obama is legalizing millions more. How many times

can we do this before Mexico runs out of Mexicans?

After he legalizes these 12 million illegals, I hope they pass a law deporting any illegals immediately after this.

Robert Peruski Sr.  
Ugly

## Not pleased with pharmacy service

Continued from page 3.

back Saturday to pick them up, and I replied that is not true because I told her I would be back after my doctor's appointment. Then I asked if there was anything ready for Dawn Miller and the clerk said they had nothing so I said I would wait. Meanwhile, the 2 clerks were behind the counter, laughing and giggling and whispering to each other and looking at me. At this time, it was after 3 p.m.

As I am waiting for my prescriptions to be filled, 3 or 4 customers came in, handing in their prescriptions and sitting down where I was, and they were telling me that the wait was 12 minutes. I told them I handed my scripts in at 2 and I still didn't have them yet. The customer replied that this was not fair - first come, first served. Within the next 5 minutes that customer's prescriptions were ready and she left. Another customer came in, went up to the clerk and asked for her meds, and the clerk brought meds to the counter and this customer was reading off the names of the meds and I heard the customer reading off the names of the meds and the customer replied, "Those are not my medications." Then I said loudly, "No, they are my medications and I'm still sitting here waiting for them. Meanwhile the clerk takes the meds back and tells the customer to wait and this customer was very upset, pacing the floor in front of the counter, and she was yelling out that she had handed in her scripts at 1:30, which is a half hour before mine were handed in and she had left and come back when she handed in her scripts.

Saturday for my scripts, and I replied to that clerk, "It was a misunderstanding or she is a liar," so the pharmacist yelled to the clerk, "Shut up and go back to work." Meanwhile, you have a line full with customers waiting on their scripts, and customers walking through the aisles waiting and complaining about their scripts.

At about 3:50, finally management came up front and talked to the clerks. When she was done speaking with the clerks, I said, "Are you a manager?" She replied, "Yes," and I said, "I have been a customer for 3 years, may I speak with you?" The manager replied, "Yes, I have been called up front but I will be back." Meanwhile, I'm sitting and waiting, no scripts yet, and I'm looking around and I see the manager standing up front while the 2 clerks in the back are giggling, laughing, and whispering and looking straight at me. Finally the manager comes and talks to me, and I said that I never had any problems here and have been coming here for a long time, and the other girl who used to work here was always very respectful and nice to me. The manager said, "Would you like to talk this out with the clerk?" I replied "Yes," but the clerk replied that she did not wish to speak to me. She changed her mind and came from around the counter and we spoke. I tried to explain to her that this was a misunderstanding because I would not say I would be back on Saturday for my meds because I have a new medication - it's an antibiotic for a bad cold that I have that I needed to start immediately - from doctor's orders. This clerk stood in my face arguing with me and telling me that I did say I would be back on Saturday for my meds, so I called her a liar because there is no way that I will be back because I need this antibiotic today and the manager replied, "Why don't you go and get your scripts filled where (another person) works?" The clerk said, "I'm done, I'm not going to fill her prescriptions." Then she went back around the counter and the other clerk replied, "Your scripts are done anyway," and I replied, "It's 4, why am I still waiting here?"

They handed me my scripts and I couldn't believe I was treated this way. I felt violated and I felt the clerks were very rude. They have done this before by trying to put words into my mouth. As I was leaving, I replied, "If you can't do your job, I suggest you find another one."



Dawn Miller  
Cass City

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**Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas**

Reporter's notebook

# Sometimes life is hard for no reason

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Sometimes life is just hard for no reason at all. I stole that line from the movie "Remember the Titans" — the actress who played Coach Herman Boone's wife uttered it after one of Boone's star high school football players crashed his car, leaving him a paraplegic. It was the first thing that came to mind when I heard of Chris Peters' death in a snowmobile accident over the weekend in the Houghton Lake area. The weekend was supposed to be another memorable annual get-together for a small group of friends from the Thumb, but in an instant everything went wrong. The tragedy came just days after the Cass City area community lost another of its own, 22-year-old Aleigh Kappen, in a car accident. I don't ever remember meeting Aleigh, and I barely knew Chris, although he never failed to offer a warm greeting when he passed through the office during his frequent visits to the paper to shoot the breeze with longtime friend and Chronicle Publisher Clarke Haire. Reporting on fatal accidents and the like are part of my job. I've covered hundreds of them over the years, and I can usually crank out the cold details on a keyboard in a matter of 10 or 15 minutes. But I never fail to pause and wonder what the victims' family members and friends are going through. I guess that's a natural response, given the finality of death in the physical sense, and the close-knit nature of this community. And the knowledge that any of us could be the next to receive that horrible phone call or visit with news that will leave us in shock and wondering if we'll ever really be able to pick up the pieces and go on. Tragedies like this are always a harsh reminder of how fleeting and precious life is. Who of Chris' family members and friends wouldn't sacrifice nearly anything for one more hug or simply the chance to say goodbye just one more time? I wonder how most of us would live our lives day to day if we really took time to consider how we'd feel if a parent or sibling, son, daughter, a niece or nephew, even a best friend was taken from us in the next 5 minutes. Most of us tend to let all sorts of meaningless things get in our way on the job or at home — a petty argument, criticism at work, a rude customer or the slightest delay in something that prompts us to take out our frustration on someone else. Examples are easy to come up with because I'm as guilty as the next guy (or gal). There's no explaining away the senseless loss of another life. Maybe the only good thing we can take from it, aside from memories, is a reminder to focus less on the things that don't matter, and more on the people who do.

# Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



## 5 YEARS AGO (2008)

**Royalty.** Chris Childs and Caitlin Sorenson highlighted Thursday's Snowcoming celebration in Cass City, when they were announced as the school's 2008 king and queen during halftime of the Hawks' home finale with Bad Axe. Students who recently represented Campbell Elementary School in the Tuscola County Fourth Grade Spelling Bee at Reese High School were Devan Kluger, Maegan LeValley and Tara Nicholas, and alternates Megan Diaz, Carley Stone and Caealya Horne. Nicholas finished fifth overall, while LeValley finished seventh and Kluger, 15th. The Cass City Red Hawks moved into the semi-finals of the district basketball tournament at USA Wednesday with an opening round win over the Ubyl Bearcats, 54-46. Aaron Fernald pointed to Chris Childs for his defense against Grant Pichla. He took him out of the game, the coach said. He also was pleased with the play of Shane McFarland. In addition to his work on defense, Childs scored 13 points and was excellent from outside the arc with 4 3-pointers. Also in double figures for Cass City was Chris Summerset. Steve Weber with 14 points and Jordan Kaufman with 11 points were in double figures for Ubyl.

## 10 YEARS AGO (2003)

The Cass City Quiz Bowl Team "A" took first place at this year's Tuscola County Tournament, held Feb. 24 in Caro. After a first round bye, Cass City topped USA in the semis before defeating Kingston in the finals. The team finished with a 10-2 record in the Tuscola League, with both losses coming to Caro. Team members are Amanda Frederick, Jesse Rader, Captain Dara Iwankovitsch, Corey Brooks and Bryan Hill. The annual Millionaire Party at Northwood Meadows raised \$13,380 to be used to pay for new cardiac monitors in the emergency room department at Hills and Dales General Hospital. The party had a Hawaiian Luau theme and guests were entertained by Leo Day's portrayal of Elvis.

Like many other students, Laura Smith promised herself she would finish her high school education — one day — when an illness forced her to leave school during her senior year. Unlike many others, however, Smith has kept that promise. It wasn't easy. Smith, 34, is a single mom who juggles the responsibilities of a full-time job with motherhood. She's

a Tiger Scout leader and her children, Michael, 14, Sarah, 12, and Dillon, 7, keep her busy with their activities in scouting, church, KLICK and sports. Still, she added homework to her list of "things to do" just 4 months ago and is now awaiting delivery of her high school diploma.

## 25 YEARS AGO (1988)

Junior Bill Kappen, son of Gerald and Catherine Kappen, boasted a 33-8 wrestling record and was the only Cass City grappler to qualify for state competition. In addition, Bill finished 1st in the Thumb B. The third year wrestler is also a member of the National Honor Society and a letterman in football. Blaring from the radio is music by Bob Seger. There's laughter. Some guys are dressed in sweats while others are outfitted in ragged gym clothes. None of their attire matches. Sounds like a pajama party, right? Wrong, it's wrestling practice. And it's where Cass City wrestler Mike Mikolon has established himself as one of the best 155-lb. grapplers in the state. Third year Coach Don Markel says Mikolon is probably the best wrestler he has ever been associated with. On the flip side of Mikolon's wrestling career, his biggest disappointment had to be at this year's regional competition where his individual season ended abruptly due to a severe neck injury. The Hawk grappler was well on his way to a first place finish until he was taken to the hospital for X-rays. And although his Cass City wrestling career has drawn to a conclusion, the stubborn blond plans to pursue wrestling after graduation. "I'll try out for the all-army team and then maybe the Olympics," said Mikolon. Mike is the son of Fred and June Mikolon.

The area is not noted for cross country ski trails. But it should be, notes skiing aficionado Sandy House. She says that she has skied in some of the more publicized areas of the state and last week tried a trail through the woods at Cass City Recreational Park. People just don't know what we have here, she gushed, and someone should tell them. So we did. (From Rabbit Tracks)

## 50 YEARS AGO (1963)

Two Gageton youths have been named to the top posts for the 1963 graduating class of Owendale-Gageton High School, according to Charles Ellis, principal.

Valedictorian is Kenneth Hofmeister, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hofmeister, Gageton, and Danny O'Rourke, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Rourke, also of Gageton, is salutatorian.

Cass City scored its first victory in eight games Tuesday night at Cass City High School as they edged Marlette 74-62 to avenge an earlier defeat at the hands of the Red Raiders. With Walt Hempton, Roger Karr and Ron Randall showing the way, the Hawks raced to a 22-14 first quarter lead. They were helped by hot foul shooting as the team converted 10 of 11 charity heaves in the opening canto. Karr netted 21 points and Ed Retherford pitched in 18 to lead the Hawk scorers. S. Patrick netted 20 for Marlette.

Mrs. Charles Tennant has announced the purchase of Ann's Home Restaurant from Ann Lenda, effective March 1. The sale of the restaurant brings to an end a 12-year business career in Cass City for Miss Lenda. Miss Lenda purchased the restaurant in 1951 and has managed it since then. She is also co-owner of Ed and Ann's tavern, Caro, and for the past three years has been active in both businesses.

## 100 YEARS AGO (1913)

C.R. Townsend, who has been in the shoe business in Bad Axe, is moving his stock of goods to Cass City and is adding it to the clothing and shoe stock of McGregory & Farrell. The business is being organized as a stock company and the firm title will hereafter be Farrell & Townsend. Mr. McGregory, who has been engaged in the mercantile lines in Cass City for over 27 years, will retire from business activities.

On Friday morning, Feb. 21, the large barn on the farm of Lewis Yager near Decker was struck by lightning and with its contents of hay and grain was burned to the ground. A hay press which was placed in the barn the day previous was also burned. All the cattle and horses were rescued from the building, but one cow which was killed by the lightning. The wife of the man living on the farm sat milking within a few feet of the cow which was killed. The woman was not hurt.

Mr. and Mrs. William Crandall entertained a number of friends at their farm home Tuesday evening. The company was entertained by musical selections from their number and Mrs. Crandall served a delicious luncheon consisting of sandwiches, coffee, pickles, olives, fruit salad, tarts, ice cream and cake.

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**Send Letters to the Editor to Cass City Chronicle P.O. Box 115, Cass City**

## Cass City Area Church Directory

<p><b>Anchor Cove Outreach Church</b> 201 E. Sanilac Rd. Caro, MI 48723 989-672-2262 Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. www.anchorcoveoutreachchurch.com</p>	<p><b>Cass City United Methodist Church</b> 5100 N. Cemetery Rd., P.O. Box 125, Cass City, MI 48726 872-3422 Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Summer 9:30 a.m.) Sunday School - Sept.-May 9:30 a.m. Community Dinner - Monthly (2nd Wed. at noon) Pastor: Rev. Jackie Roe</p>	<p><b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b> 6820 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2770 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Bible Class &amp; Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Steve Bagnall www.goodshepherdlutherancasscity.webs.com</p>	
<p><b>Calvary Bible Fellowship an Independent Baptist Church</b> 4446 Ale St., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-4088 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday - Pray/Bible Study &amp; Youth Group 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Evangelical Free Church of Cass City</b> 6430 Chestnut Blvd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-5060 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Midweek Bible Studies Biblical Counseling Pastor: Rev. Todd R. Gould www.casscityefc.org</p>	<p><b>Novesta Church of Christ</b> <i>"the friendly church that cares"</i> 2896 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3658 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Minister: Brad Speirs Visit our website at: www.novestachurch.org</p>	
<p><b>Cass City Church of Christ</b> 6743 E. Main St., Cass City, MI 48726 Contacts 872-2367 or 872-3136 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m. &amp; 6:00 p.m. Bible Study - Sunday 10:00 a.m. &amp; Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church (Independent, Fundamental) Barrier Free</b> 6420 Houghton St., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-3155 Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday - Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AWANA Clubs 6:45 p.m. During School Year Thursday Teen Club 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pastor: David G. Hill Website: www.fbccc.us</p>	<p><b>Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church</b> Corner of 6th and Leach, Cass City, MI 48726 872-5186 Thursday Evening 7:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Pastor: F. Robert Tucker</p>	
<p><b>Cass City Church of the Nazarene</b> 6538 Third St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-2604 or (989) 912-2077 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Wed. Prayer &amp; Bible Study - &amp; Children's Activities 6:00 p.m. Pastor: Jerry Harrington Associate Pastor: Judy A. Esckilsen</p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church Barrier Free</b> State &amp; National Historical Registry 6505 Church St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-5400 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Pastor: Dave Blackburn</p>	<p><b>St. Pancratius Catholic Church</b> 4292 S. Seeger St., Cass City, MI 48726 872-3336 Summer Saturday Liturgy 5:30 p.m. DST Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Winter Saturday Liturgy 4:00 p.m. EDT Sunday Liturgy 9:00 a.m. Pastoral Administrator: St. Maria Dina Puddu MC</p>	
<p><b>Cass City Missionary Church</b> 4449 Koepfen Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-2729 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening Service &amp; Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Pastor: Phil Burkett www.casscitymc.org</p>	<p><b>Fraser Presbyterian Church</b> 3006 Huron Line Rd., Cass City, MI 48726 872-5400 Sunday School - Sept.-May 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Pastor: Dave Blackburn</p>	<p><b>Mizpah Missionary Church</b> 4631 N. Van Dyke, Cass City, MI 48726 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Group 7-8 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Club 7-8 p.m. Pastor Dale Bullock 989-325-0736</p>	
<p><b>Living Word Worship Center Church of God</b> 6536 Houghton Street, Cass City, MI 48726 989-872-4637 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Family Training Hour: Wednesday 7 p.m. (including youth and children's services) Pastor: Rev. Mark Karwowski Website: www.lwccog.net</p>			<p><b>Novesta Church of Christ</b></p>

**Visitors always welcomed... Please join us today!**

# Giving back

## Sanilac County farmer donates \$5,000 to FFA and FFA Alumni

The Sanilac County FFA and the Sanilac County FFA Alumni will now be able to better fund their organizations and serve their community, thanks to the support of Sanilac County farmer Cliff Gordon and America's Farmers Grow Communities.

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, Grow Communities provides farmers in eligible counties the chance to win a \$2,500 donation for a local nonprofit organization of their choice. To further support counties declared natural disaster

areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to the drought last year, winning farmers in these counties are able to direct double donations, a total of \$5,000.

Sanilac County was declared a disaster area by the USDA, giving Gordon the opportunity to choose 2 organizations to receive \$2,500 donations.

Gordon selected the Sanilac County FFA and the Sanilac County FFA Alumni. The Sanilac County FFA plans to use the grant from Monsanto to teach youth season extension production techniques. Using single

layer poly-covered high and low tunnels, youth will learn techniques for growing lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, mustard greens and Swiss chard during each of the four seasons. Additionally, youth will learn that tomatoes, peppers, broccoli and cauliflower can each be grown and harvested for five to nine months of the year in the same style structure. In all, youth will learn that high-quality local produce can be grown throughout the year by adjusting the growing paradigm.

The Sanilac County FFA Alumni have organized and staffed the Life's Greatest Miracle Birth Tent at the Sanilac County 4-H Fair for the last several years. The Tent that they are in is beside the main entrance to the fair grounds. In the tent during fair week the FFA Alumni have cows having calves, sows having piglets, chickens hatching from eggs, beef and equine displays. Over the course of the fair there are about 10,000 people who attend from the area and the birth tent is a big attraction. The FFA Alumni has been talking to the fair board about putting up some type of permanent building to have this in. The money that they receive from the Monsanto Fund would be used to start a fund to purchase the structure.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be picked as the winner for this county," said Gordon. "These kids are our future and we have to and most graciously want to help them. It's a great aspect to the future of our county."

This year, the Monsanto Fund will invest nearly \$6 million in rural America through Grow Communities, which includes double donations for counties impacted by the historic drought.

In Michigan, \$185,000 is being given across 37 counties.

America's Farmers Grow Communities is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to partner with farmers in helping them positively impact their communities. This program is part of the Monsanto Fund's overall effort to strengthen rural America.



CASS CITY Historical Society member Tyler Perry (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to volunteer Nick Smith for his work on the Cass Theatre Project during last week's "A Night at the Cass" event. The historical society sponsored the gathering, which was attended by about 40 area residents and highlighted the history of Cass City's playhouses and theatres. The event was funded with loose donations from the Cass Theatre Project fundraiser last year. The remainder of the donations will go to the Cass City Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship Fund.

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## Notice of BOARD OF REVIEW

For **Elkland Township**

Will Be Held  
**March 11, 2013** 9 a.m.-12 & 1-4 p.m.  
**March 12, 2013** 1-4 & 6-9 p.m.  
 at 6691 Church St., Cass City  
 Dan Erla, Supervisor

## Notice of BOARD OF REVIEW for Evergreen Township

will be held  
**March 14, 2013** 1-9 p.m.  
**March 15, 2013** 9-4 p.m.  
 Tentative Equalization Factor:

Class	Multiplier	Ratio
Agricultural	1.00000	49.03
Commercial	0.62570	79.91
Industrial	1.00000	50.00
Residential	0.85208	58.68

Evergreen Township Hall, 5514 Shabbona Rd., Decker  
 Arthur Severance, Clerk

## BOARD OF REVIEW for Greenleaf Township

Will Be Held  
 Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. -- To present the roll. No public protest heard.  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2013** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. & 2-4 p.m.  
**Friday, March 15, 2013** 2-5 p.m. & 6-9 p.m.  
 Greenleaf Twp. Hall on Gilbert Rd., 2 miles north of Cass City Rd.  
 Taxpayers may appeal assessments at either of the last two meetings or by mail to Lori Mazure, 6959 Van Dyke Rd., Cass City, MI 48726.

Class	Tentative Equalization Factor	Ratio	Multiplier
Agriculture	51.76%	0.966000	
Commercial	47.81%	1.045810	
Industrial	49.70%	1.000000	
Residential	48.56%	1.029650	
Personal Property	50.00%	1.000000	

The township will provide necessary reasonable service to individuals with Disabilities at the Board of Review Meeting upon 3 days notice to clerk.  
 Lori Mazure

## Notice of BOARD OF REVIEW for Kingston Township will be held

**March 11, 2013** 1-4 p.m. & 9-6 p.m.  
**March 12, 2013** 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.  
 Tentative Equalization Factor:

Class	Multiplier	Ratio
Residential	1.0039	49.31
Agricultural	1.1398	43.43
Commercial	0.9485	52.19
Personal	1.0000	50.00

Kingston Township Hall, 5943 Howard St., Wilmot  
 Joann Tauber, Assessor

## Notice of BOARD OF REVIEW for Novesta Township will be held

**March 11, 2013** 9 a.m.-noon  
**March 12, 2013** 6-9 p.m.  
**March 13, 2013** 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.  
 Tentative Equalization Factor:

Class	Multiplier	Ratio
Residential	1.1440	43.27
Agricultural	1.0393	47.63
Commercial	1.0018	49.41
Personal	1.0000	50.00

Cass City Gun Club, 2676 N. Englehart Rd., Cass City  
 Joann Tauber, Assessor

## Budget Public Hearing (Truth in Budgeting) Notice

The Village of Gagetown Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed village budget for fiscal year April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 at 4764 State St. (Next to bank), Gagetown on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Copies of the budget will be available the night of the meeting.

Notice complies with MCL 141.436 & MCL 211.24e

Prepared by: Joan Koch  
 Clerk/Treasurer  
 Village of Gagetown



**CASS CITY High School solo and ensemble participants were (front row, from left) Kara Reif, Emily Kuenzli, Jodi Engel, (middle row, left) Ilana Blattner, Rachel Patera, Brian Mohr, Michaela Romain, Kayla Zmierski, Katie House, Libby Venema, (back row, left) Chandler Cryderman, Audrey VanAuken, Kristin Ewald, Cass City Band Director Laura Curtis, Elisabeth Milligan, Michael Mulligan, Paul Verhines and Anna Bagnall.**



**LOCAL JUNIOR high school students who performed during the solo and ensemble festival were (front row, from left) Nikki Younglove, Alexis Mazure, Savannah Walker, Alyssa Sangster, Maddie Mandich, Jade Galenski, (back row, left) Cass City Band Director Laura Curtis, Katelyn Kuenzli, Megan Graham, Claire Kausch, Joey Morrish, Seth Roggenbuck, Paige Bagnall and Amy Verhines.**



**CASS CITY was well represented in this year's Tri-County Honors Band. Local musicians performing with the group are: (front row, from left) Kayla Zmierski, Emily Kuenzli, Rachel Patera, (back row, left) Cass City Band Director Laura Curtis, Elisabeth Milligan, Anna Bagnall and Chandler Cryderman. Also pictured is Steven Burns, guest conductor from Lapeer.**

## GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE - THE GREENLEAF TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL LOCATED AT 7510 GILBERT RD., CASS CITY, MI,

**MARCH 21, 2013 AT 7 P.M.**

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:** To consider a request for Special Land Use Permits from Gerald Bartnik and Henry Bartnik for used vehicle, equipment and/or machinery sales, as well as the storage of automobiles, trucks, construction equipment, farm machinery and similar equipment for Tax Parcel ID Number's 130-029-300-030-00 and 130-031-100-010-00 and for the repair and/or service of automobiles, trucks, construction equipment, farm machinery and similar equipment for Tax Parcel ID Number 130-032-200-060-00.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION(S):** Township of Greenleaf, County of Sanilac, State of Michigan, Located at or near the intersection of M-53 and Cass City Road. Tax Parcel ID Number's 130-029-300-030-00, 130-031-100-010-00, and 130-032-200-060-00

Written comments concerning these matters can be submitted to the Township Clerk at the address indicated. The Planning Commission may conduct such other business as may come before it.

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, MCL 41.72a(2) and (3). Any concerns regarding the requirement of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act should be brought to the attention of the Township Clerk at 989-872-5654.

Lori Mazure, Clerk  
 6959 Van Dyke Rd, Cass City, MI 48726

## Cass City pupils shine at festival

A host of Cass City Junior-Senior High School students recently performed at the Thumb Friends of the Arts Solo and Ensemble Festival at USA High School.

High School students earning Division I ratings — the highest mark possible — were:

Paul Verhines and Brian Mohr (percussion duet), Michael Mulligan (French horn solo), Ilana Blattner (French horn solo), Anna Bagnall (flute solo), Rachel Patera (piano solo and clarinet solo), Kayla Zmierski (flute solo), Elisabeth Milligan (piano solo), Emily Kuenzli (piano solo), and Kristin Ewald, Elisabeth Milligan, Kara Reif and Audrey VanAuken (saxophone quartet).

Cass City Junior High students earning Division I ratings were:

Claire Kausch (trumpet solo), Megan Graham (clarinet solo), Paige Bagnall (clarinet solo), Jade Galenski (flute solo), Katelyn Kuenzli (piano solo), Amy Verhines (alto saxophone solo), Savannah Walker (tenor saxophone solo), and Paige Bagnall, Joey Morrish, Seth Roggenbuck, Amy Verhines (saxophone-clarinet quartet).

Cass City High School students who received Division II (good) ratings were:

Chandler Cryderman (bass clarinet solo); Katie House, Libby Venema and Chandler Cryderman (saxophone trio); Jodi Engel and Michaela Romain (clarinet-flute duet); and Katie House and Libby Venema (saxophone duet).

Local junior high school students earning Division II ratings were:

Alyssa Sangster (alto saxophone solo), Alexis Mazure and Nikki Younglove (alto saxophone-clarinet duet), and Jade Galenski and Maddie Mandich (flute duet).

In addition, several Cass City High School students were selected to perform with the Tri-County Honors Band, an audition-only ensemble consisting of the top high school musicians from Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron counties.

Representing Cass City Schools this year are Kayla Zmierski, Emily Kuenzli, Rachel Patera, Elisabeth Milligan, Anna Bagnall and Chandler Cryderman.

## Meth lab discovered in Bad Axe

Continued from page one.

ardous materials (HAZMAT) team to the scene.

During the investigation, officers located and seized amounts of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, ingredients used in manufacturing meth, and cash.

Police arrested a 21-year-old Detroit man and a 30-year-old Bad Axe resident. A third suspect who was not at the residence was also being sought in the case.

Meth is used as a recreational drug for its euphoric and stimulant properties. It's a powerfully addictive stimulant that dramatically affects the central nervous system. Also known as "speed" and "chalk", the drug is made easily in clandestine laboratories with relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients.

## Without official Public Notice

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this may be all the information you get.

Currently and historically, it is the responsibility of government to publish public and legal notices here in Michigan's newspapers. Facts concerning court actions, government bids, zoning changes, tax increases, and legislative proposals are all published here. In fact, it's the law serving your right to know; assuring that you are informed of events and important information affecting your life and community.



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## Accident claims Cass City man

Continued from page one.

The victim suffered severe internal and head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Jones, who said weather conditions at the time of the accident included light snow. "Some of the drivers that were in the party he (Peters) was in kept stating their shields/eye visors were fogging up and frosting up," he noted.

Somerville recalled first meeting Peters in conjunction with the farming operation he (Somerville) and his brother own and operate west of Cass City. "He (Peters) helped us on our farm, and we just became really good friends over the past 10 years," he said.

Somerville said this was the fourth time the group gathered for snowmobiling up north. "It's an annual trip, just to get away for the guys," he added.

Somerville indicated he and Peters' other fellow riders are still stunned at what happened to their longtime friend and riding companion.

"You always hear about things like this," he said. "You never think it's going to be you. This time it was."

A Thumb native, Peters was a 1982 Cass City High School graduate who earned an associate's degree in agriculture at Michigan State University. He was a crop farmer and worked as an independent truck driver for many years, most recently for J.W. Hunt Trucking, Bad Axe. He recently left trucking to join with his brother, Pat, in establishing a new business — Michigan Salon Services in Caro.

Peters was a member of the Cass City Gavel Club and Knights of Columbus Cass City-Gagetown Council 8892.

Funeral services are scheduled for today (Wednesday) at 11 a.m. at St.

Pancratius Catholic Church in Cass City. A full obituary is published on page 11 of this week's edition of the Chronicle.

According to Associated Press news reports statewide, at least 2 other fatal snowmobile accidents were recorded in northern Michigan over the weekend.

Two Detroit area men reportedly died in separate crashes, the first involving a 56-year-old man who was killed when the snowmobile he was driving hit a pressure crack on Burt Lake, about 15 miles southeast of Cheboygan, during a snowstorm Friday afternoon.

In Crawford County, sheriff's deputies said a road worker discovered the body of another snowmobiler Saturday morning in Beaver Creek Township, near the Higgins Lake shoreline about 10 miles south of Grayling. That victim's name has not been released.

## Board approves exam opt-out policy

Continued from page one.

including school-sponsored activities. Eligible students must also maintain a B-minus or better grade average, and receive parental permission to skip exams.

Turning to enrollment, Hartel reported on the latest of 2 annual statewide enrollment counts conducted by schools across the state.

Cass City recorded a total K-12 student count of 1,077 students earlier this month, down by 5 kids compared to an enrollment of 1,082 students last fall, according to Hartel, who noted the district saw little change in enrollment 2 years ago, then lost 10 students last year.

"We've already enrolled some new students, so I think we've already made that (loss of 5 children) up," he told the board. "We're not going to have to look at losing 40 or 50 kids (as school officials have done the past several years), which is really nice."

Cass City hasn't been alone in facing a shrinking enrollment. In fact, the combined enrollment of all 9 public school systems within the Tuscola Intermediate School District fell from 10,759 students in 2007-08 to roughly 9,200 kids 2 years ago.

Michigan public schools depend on student numbers for the lion's share of their revenue each year. The dollars are distributed to schools by the state in the form of a "foundation allowance", a funding amount -- cur-

rently about \$7,000 for Cass City -- that is multiplied by the number of students in each district.

Each district's official enrollment is determined by "blending" 2 separate counts; one conducted in the fall and the other one during the previous February. The state's formula places a heavy emphasis on the fall tally, which is worth 90 percent of the total.

Also Monday, board members reviewed the school's latest Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores.

"Our MEAP scores are a mixed bag. We're still (ranked) number one out of all the schools in Tuscola County. Overall, we're doing well (compared to) our peers," Hartel told the board. He added, however, that school officials are focusing on areas of concern, including social studies and science scores, which continue to be low for school districts across the state.

### BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The board also adopted 2012-13 budget amendments that have been revised since school officials released a glowing financial picture last month.

The news is still good, but the board learned that some elementary school salaries were inadvertently missed when calculating total general fund expenses.

Cass City Chief Financial Officer Mike Klosowski last month projected the district's fund balance will total \$1.386 million -- equal to roughly 15 percent of the district's budget -- at the end of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, compared to a fund balance of \$787,000 when the spending plan was adopted last summer.

Klosowski estimated Monday that the fund balance will now total \$987,275 at the end of June. "The updated budget shows the year-end finishing with an approximate fund balance of 11 percent, with over \$200,000 being added to fund balance," he said. "This is good news from where the district was a year ago and from where the budget for the current fiscal year was as presented originally back in June."

Hartel indicated school officials still have a number of challenges

ahead, including dealing with the impact of "Obama Care", also known as The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

As a result of the new federal health care legislation, starting next year all employers who have at least 50 workers must offer affordable health care benefits to employees who put in a minimum of 30 hours a week. For Cass City, the legislation would affect 27 employees -- 17 para-professionals a pair of bus drivers and 8 daycare employees.

Many questions remain regarding specifics of the new law, but Hartel said it's likely the district will be looking at implementing some layoffs and other measures in order to minimize the cost involved in adhering to the new regulations.

### IN OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board:

- Briefly discussed the recently-completed annual evaluation of the school superintendent as well as a board of education self-evaluation.

- Board members Alice Zaleski and Sloane Stimpfel both indicated Hartel received a favorable review of his job performance over the past year, and the board unanimously voted in favor of a motion to add a year to Hartel's current 2-year contract.

- Accepted the resignation of junior-senior high school agriscience teacher and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor Ashlee Gibson, who left the district effective Feb. 25. Gibson joined the district 3 years ago and played an integral role in helping to revive Cass City's agriscience program.

- Daniels told the board that the position has been posted and that a replacement will be hired as soon as possible.

- Noted negotiations for a new contract between the district and the Cass City Education Association (CCEA) are scheduled to begin March 13. The local teachers' current contract is set to expire in August.

- Unanimously approved Cass City Athletic Director Don Markel's recommendation to name Jim Baker as Cass City's representative for the "Friend of Youth Award" at this year's Thumb Meet of Champions in Caro.

## Milk plant dominates meet

Continued from page one.

the proposed milk processing facility.

The second study approved will establish budget costs for providing wastewater treatment for the milk processing facility at a cost not to exceed \$11,750. The study is deemed necessary for Dairy Farmers of America representatives to move forward with their development plans.

Both studies will be conducted by URS Corporation, and funds are available in the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget for these analyses with a combined cost of \$18,230.

WWTP Supt. Rick Mohr says since URS completed a study for the village in 2009, it is cost effective to utilize their services for these present studies.

"URS is the number one ranked design firm in the world, is a world leader and a trusted resource in the wastewater engineering industry," he said.

Village Manager Peter Cristiano

says phase I of the project would create about 30 to 50 jobs and phase II - which would produce cheese products - could result in several hundred jobs.

However, Cristiano added, "First and most importantly, no decision has been made by Dairy Farmers of America to build their milk plant in Cass City. A final decision will be made in April."

Turning to personnel and public safety committee matters, Trustee Kevin Israelson reported Cass City Police Officer Kevin Laming will be promoted to a full-time position effective March 1, while Code Enforcement Officer Jon Gaymer has resigned after a 3-year stint.

Laming is a 2003 graduate of Ubyly High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Ferris State University in 2007. Cass City Chief of Police Craig Haynes indicated he's confident Laming understands his department's community-oriented policing philosophy and will be an asset to the community and the Cass City Police Department.

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Back 2 Back was opened in 2007 by the husband and wife chiropractic team of Eric and Heidi (Vollmar) Yeager. Heidi, a Cass City native, and Eric, a native Texan, have two amazing children together.

Back 2 Back Chiropractic also offers skilled professional massage therapy services provided by certified massage therapists, Tami Dufty-Kreider and Tonia Barriger.

Back 2 Back Chiropractic has 2 office locations to serve the community in both Cass City at (989) 872-2737 and Caseville at (989) 856-2737, or simply call (989) 553-BACK. Find Back 2 Back Chiropractic on the web at [www.back2back.com](http://www.back2back.com) and like them on Facebook at [facebook.com/b2bchiro](http://facebook.com/b2bchiro).

Be sure to check next week's paper for the next Cass City Spotlight Business of the Week.

And Remember to Shop Local & Support Those Who Support Cass City!

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Saturday, Mar. 9  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
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# League title within Red Hawk reach

**Continued from page 9.**  
 City and Israelson added 15.  
**USA**  
 On Wednesday, Cass City started hot and finished strong to earn a 49-42 decision over guest USA.  
 Seven treys by 3 different players – Orban, Hartwick and Dickinson – staked the hosts to an 18-10 lead after one, only to see the Patriots use a 15-7 run to draw even at the break.

Both teams used treys to keep pace after the intermission, but the contest would be settled at the free throw line where Cass City made 10 points and USA one.  
 Orban canned 4 triples and a game-high 15 points for Cass City. Hartwick added a pair of deep jumpers and 13 points, while Israelson pitched in 10 points.  
 For USA, Dan Rieck scored a

dozen.  
**CASS CITY** – Orban 0-4 (3-6) 15; Hartwick 2-2 (3-3) 13; Perry 1-0 (4-4) 6; Dickinson 1-1 (0-0) 5; Israelson 5-0 (0-2) 10.  
**TOTALS** – 9-7 (10-15) 49.  
**USA** – Beachy 2-0 (0-0) 4; Cramer 0-2 (0-0) 6; Mielke 1-1 (0-0) 5; Reick 1-3 (1-2) 12; Ewald 2-0 (0-0) 4; Ballard 3-1 (0-0) 9; Gangler 1-0 (0-0) 2.  
**TOTALS** – 10-7 (1-2) 42.  
**CASS CITY** – Orban 0-2 (0-1) 6; Hartwick 1-5 (4-5) 21; Schenk 0-0 (1-2) 1; Perry 0-0 (0-1) 0; Dickinson 2-0 (0-0) 4; Israelson 7-0 (1-2) 15.  
**TOTALS** – 10-7 (6-11) 47.  
**EPBP** – Kosinski 1-1 (0-0) 5; Post 1-0 (0-0) 2; Binder 4-0 (0-0) 8; Kosinski 1-0 (0-0) 2; Zwemmer 9-0 (5-5) 23.  
**TOTALS** – 15-1 (5-5) 40.



**START 'EM EARLY.** Jordan Mester, 9, of Cass City bagged his second rabbit this winter while hunting with his grandpa, Jack Edwards.

## BOWLING

**Wednesday Night Trio**  
 as of Feb. 20

Kelly & Company	45
Martin Electric	34
Rooney Contracting	32
Prographix	32
Scheurer Hospital	31.5
Curtis Chrysler	31
Nicol & Sons, Inc.	23
Scheurer Healthcare Network	18
JEBCO	17.5
Walsh Farms	16

Individual High Games & Series:  
 Rick Doerr 244; Don Doerr 221-231 (630); Tom Summers 236-204 (612); Terry Lutz 213-225 (636); Joel Nicol 232; Ed Schmaltz 233-198 (601).

Team High Series: Rooney Contracting (1794).

**Merchanettes**  
 as of Feb. 21

Just One More	34
Thumb Octagon Barn	33
Nuts and Bolts	19
No Shows	10

Individual High Game & Series:  
 Marlene Sieradzki 185 (481).  
 Individual High HDCP Game & Series:  
 Marlene Sieradzki 231 (609).

Team High Game & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 567 (1628).  
 Team High HDCP Games & Series:  
 Just One More 790 (2189); Thumb Octagon Barn 783 (2276).

Splits: Carol Wright 3-10.  
 Strikes: Marlene Sieradzki 3 in a row; Chris Little 3 in a row (twice).

**Girls' District Tourney - Class C**  
**Held at Harbor Beach**

<b>CASS CITY</b>	
Feb. 27 6:00 p.m.	
<b>EPBP</b>	
	March 1 7:00 p.m.
<b>USA</b>	
Feb. 27 7:30 p.m.	
<b>UBLY</b>	

**Schneeberger's**  
**ATHLETES of the WEEK**

Schneeberger's congratulates the entire Cass City Red Hawk boys basketball team as its choice for Athletes of the Week.

Coach Aaron Fernald's squad improved to 15-3 overall Friday with a 47-40 Greater Thumb West victory over guests Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port. The Red Hawks enter the final week of the regular season needing one win to claim the school's first league championship in over a decade. They'll get 2 chances starting Tuesday in Reese, followed by Thursday at home against Vassar.

If successful, the Red Hawks will provide Fernald with his first championship as skipper of the Cass City program. They will then look to add a district toga at Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School, where they are forecasted to meet Harbor Beach in the March 8 final.

THE 2012-13 Cass City varsity boys' basketball team members are: (front, l-r) Jacob Hacker, Shane Rasmussen, Curtis Dickinson, Jacob Perry, Collin Hartwick, Cody Orban (back) Lukas Schenk, Tristan Kuntz, Cole Israelson, Cody Ross and Eric Churchill.

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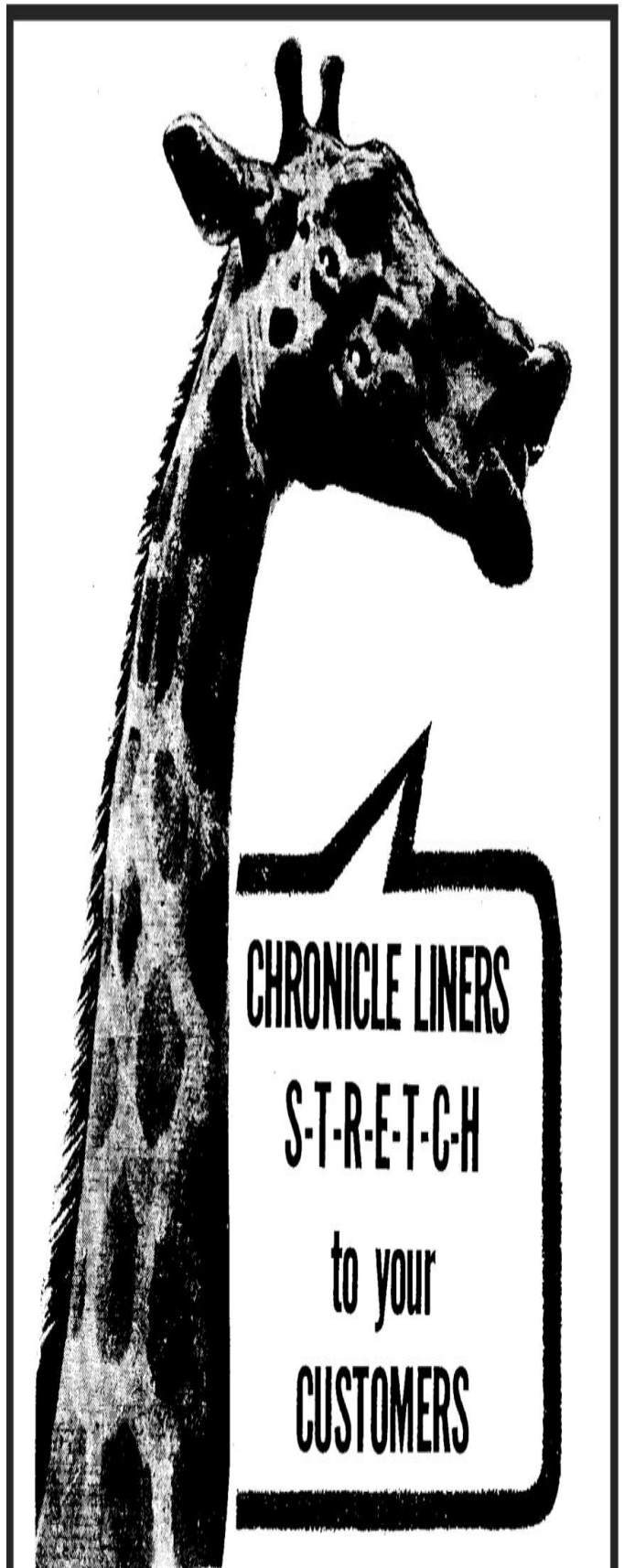
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## Millions earmarked for resources improvement, protection

# Hunting, fishing license changes on tap

by Ryan Walker  
Freelance Writer

It's impossible to overlook the influence that outdoor activities have on residents of the greater Thumb area.

Communities aren't just abuzz with hunting, fishing or trapping conversations during the autumn months; talk of the natural world finds its way into the topics of discussions among friends, family and acquaintances who spend time in the woods, fields and waterways of Michigan. The deep passion many outdoor enthusiasts hold for their beloved outdoor activity also leads them to be watchful for changes that could possibly affect the natural resources they care so deeply about.

When Gov. Rick Snyder released his proposed 2013-2014 state budget at the beginning of February, a plan to change hunting and fishing license fees caught the attention of many area sportsmen. Michigan hunters, anglers and trappers haven't seen a license increase since 1997.

The core structure of the proposal would reduce the number of license types from 227 to 31 while increasing the cost of some hunting and fishing licenses. The projected out-

come of the proposal is millions of dollars in additional revenue.

This news has produced a number of questions, comments and concerns. Two areas receiving the most attention focus on what the license changes would be and what the additional revenue would be spent on to improve outdoor opportunities.

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website, changes implemented under the proposal would include a base hunting license required to hunt in Michigan. The base license would allow hunters to pursue small game, waterfowl and migratory birds. There would be 4 different payment scales for the license — \$5 for a youngster ages 10-17, \$10 for residents ages 18-64, \$4 for those ages 65 and up, and \$150 for non-residents. Waterfowl and migratory bird hunters would no longer need a state duck stamp, however, they would still need to purchase a federal duck stamp to hunt ducks, geese, woodcock and other migratory birds.

After a base hunting license is purchased, other tags could be added on for additional fees. Deer tags would increase from \$15 to \$20. Antlerless deer tags currently cost \$15 apiece, but would also increase to \$20 under

the proposal. Spring and fall turkey tags as well as fur harvester licenses would all remain at \$15 under the new suggested changes.

A noteworthy portion of the license change proposal deals with limited draw big game species.

Currently, black bear and elk are two species in which a hopeful hunter must apply to be part of a drawing to win the chance to purchase the license needed to hunt these species. Once a person is drawn for a Michigan bear tag, they currently have to pay \$15 for the license, but that would increase to \$25 if the new fee structure takes effect. A coveted elk tag would remain at \$100 under the proposal. If the DNR can establish a wolf hunt and/or moose hunt in Michigan, which currently are not options for Michigan sportsmen, those licenses would be figured into the new structure. If a lucky applicant drew a wolf tag, it would cost a resident \$100 and a non-resident \$500. The very limited moose hunt would cost a license holder \$100.

Other proposed changes include the cost of replacement licenses. If you were to lose your licenses and the new proposal was adopted, then it would cost you the same price as the

original license. Currently, hunters are required to pay full price for replacement kill tags, but only \$3 for all other lost licenses. In addition, discounts for multi-license buyers would be eliminated. Instead of receiving a 15-percent discount when purchasing 4 or more hunting or fishing licenses for the same person at one time, the full amount would be charged under the proposal.

Hunters aren't the only group that could be affected by the license changes; anglers would also see some fee increases. Under the proposal, there would be a 24-hour fishing license available for \$15 instead of the current \$7. Non-resident all-species fishing licenses would jump from \$42 to \$75, but resident all-species licenses would drop from \$28 to \$25. There would no longer be a restricted license — all the fishing licenses would cover all-species under the proposal.

Even though the proposal calls for changes in some licenses, certain aspects of the current structure would remain in place.

Mentored youth hunting and fishing license prices would still be available for \$7.50 for youth under 10 years of age. Youth under the age of 17 could still fish for free, and senior citizens would get a 60-percent discount on the base hunting license, deer tags, fur harvester and resident all-species fishing licenses, but they would no longer receive a discount for a 24-hour fishing license or a bear tag.

The DNR projects the new licensing structure will be implemented at the beginning of sales March 1 for the 2014 license year. They predict the changes will generate \$11.8 million in 2014 fiscal year and \$18.1 million in the first full year in effect

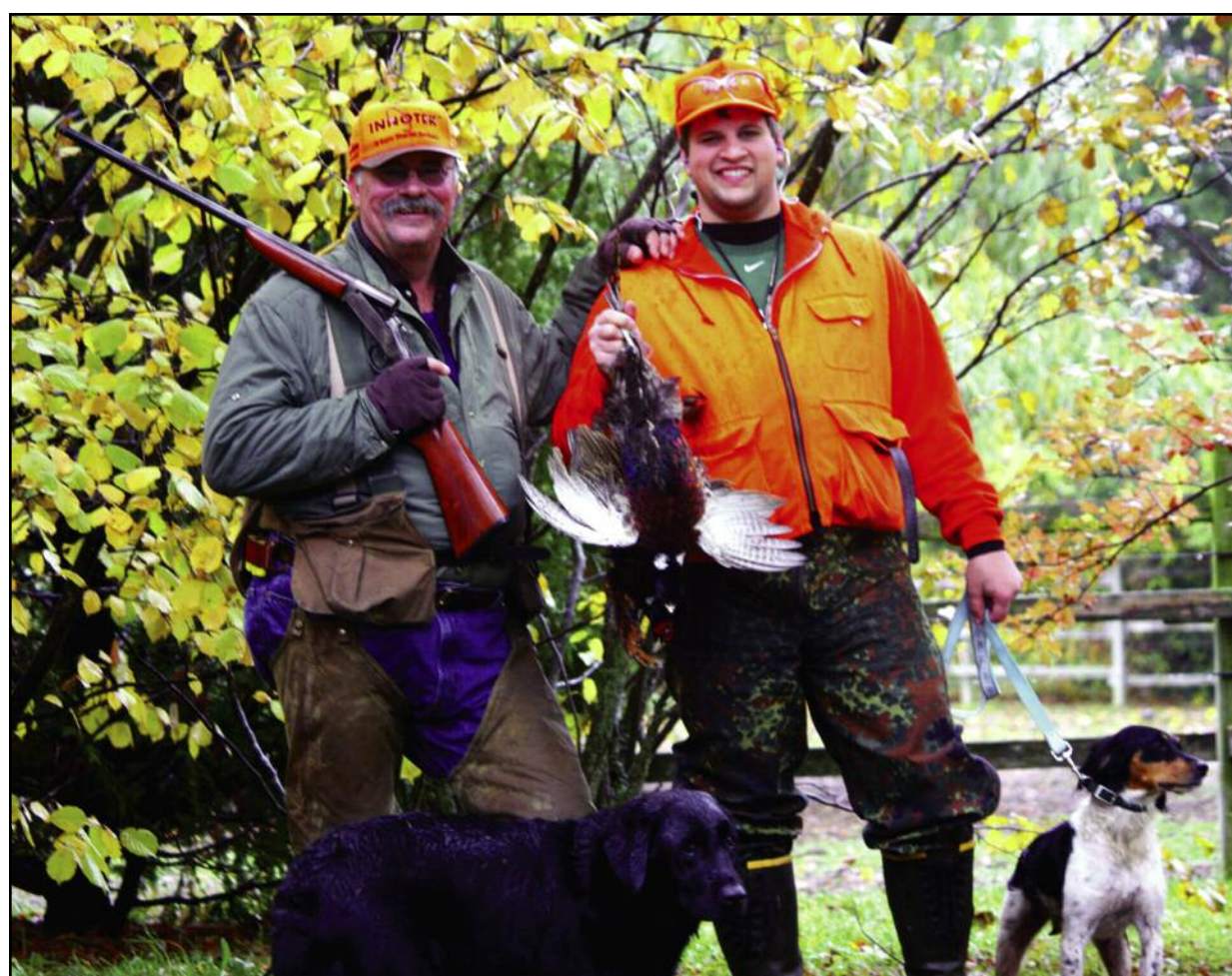
— the 2015 fiscal year.

Many vigilant sportsmen have asked how the added revenue will be used.

According to the DNR, some \$4.5 million will go to hire conservation officers. A second area that will receive a majority of the remaining revenue will focus on habitat and fish and wildlife improvements. Roughly \$1 million will be spent to increase technical assistance for fisheries habitat improvements on cold water streams, and another \$1 million dollars will be used to increase creel surveys and assessments on inland lakes and streams. An estimated \$444,440 will be used to increase outreach to perch, bluegill and bass anglers; \$977,800 will go to help increase rearing and stocking of fish by addressing the infrastructure needs at fish hatcheries; and \$1,955,600 will be given in the form of grants to improve fisheries habitat in inland lakes and streams.

The state's wildlife will also reap benefits of the additional revenue, according to DNR officials, who say \$1,466,600 will be used to increase the number of acres of public game areas receiving habitat management or maintenance, while an additional \$1,466,700 will provide grants to stakeholders to increase acres of public game areas receiving habitat management or maintenance. Grants — a total of \$488,900 — will also be made available to stakeholders seeking to increase acres of state forests benefitting from habitat management or maintenance.

In addition, education and outreach efforts will receive a \$2,444,400 boost in the areas of marketing opportunities, expanding natural resources education programs, and expanding recruitment and retention programs for hunters and anglers.



**TOM LOUNSBURY OF Cass City and his son, Joe, are pictured above after a day of pheasant hunting with their black lab, Ebony, and French brittany, Giselle. According to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials, a portion of the revenue generated by a proposed revamping of Michigan's hunting and fishing license fee structure would go towards wildlife habitat improvement measures.**

## Green plans meet on low lake levels

The low water levels of the Great Lakes and Saginaw Bay and their impact on the Bay and Thumb regions will be the focus of a March town hall meeting hosted by state Sen. Mike Green.

Green announced Thursday that he will host the meeting on March 18, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Davidson Room of the Double Tree Hotel in Bay City.

The event will include special guest Jon Allan, recently appointed director of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. Local officials, stakeholders and policy groups have also been invited to participate. It is open to the public at no cost and will include ample opportunity for questions and answers.

"Low water levels affect every

Michigan and impact our natural resources, environment, quality of life and economy in substantial ways," said Green (R-Mayville). "Michigan residents deserve solid answers on the cause and effect of these low lake levels and what we can do legislatively and locally to address the problem. There is no stronger advocate for the Great Lakes to headline this discussion than Jon Allan."

On loan to the state from his position as executive director of environmental policy and intergovernmental affairs for Consumers Energy Company, Allan is a well-known leader on environmental and natural resources policy. He currently serves as Head of the Michigan delegation for the Great Lakes Commission and as a member of the Great Lakes Executive Committee for the Water Quality Agreement.

Green said that while debates over Great Lakes policy are not without controversy, he believes that the discussion will help lead to common sense solutions with bipartisan support.

"The Great Lakes and all of Michigan's plentiful water resources are environmental and economic treasures that should be preserved for generations to come. I look forward to elevating the issue in the public arena and leading fundamental legislative action over the coming months," Green said.

For more information or to RSVP for the town hall, please visit [www.statesenatormikegreen.com](http://www.statesenatormikegreen.com) or call toll-free at 1-866-305-2131. The 31st Senate District includes the counties of Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola.

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